

CHRISTIAN--TWO HISTORIC DISCOVERIES OF MARVEL

The Buried Treasure of King Alaric, "The Despoiler of Rome," Found Under the River Bed of the River Busento.

THE Italian Government has authorized a search for the resting place of Alaric the Goth, and the vast treasure buried with him. Professor Vegas has discovered that Alaric was buried beneath the River Busento, in Calabria.

In 410 A. D., Alaric captured Rome and despoiled the richest city in the world of all its treasure. For six days he and his barbarians sacked Rome.

All this treasure was buried with Alaric under the Busento. It will go to the Italian Government if it is found. The exact burial place of Alaric has hitherto been a mystery.

THE greatest hidden treasure the world has ever known is sought for by the Italian Government. All the spoils of Rome and Athens and the greatest and richest cities of the ancient world piled in one vast heap and hidden beneath a river bed! That is what Italy expects. This secret mine of untold wealth is the burial place of Alaric the Goth.

If the Italian Government finds it, then it will be no longer the most poverty stricken great power in Europe. Bankruptcy and disgrace will be averted. Gold will overflow in national coffers depleted by foolishness and dishonesty. The monarchy will be saved.

Not alone for mere gain of gold is Alaric's last resting place sought. It is believed that it will yield the world the greatest collection of ancient objects of art that have ever been found together at one time and place.

Alaric's treasure was of incalculable value, worth untold millions in modern money. When he sacked Rome he carried away every coin of gold or silver he could find, every portable object of value in the Eternal City. Rome then had over a million people and was infinitely the richest city in the world, so rich that it was rotting from its own wealth and luxury.

He also sacked Athens and nearly every great city of the Empire, from Rome to Constantinople. All his spoils were buried with him.

Indications of the exact burial place of Alaric have just been found. The Italian Government is persuaded of the value of this discovery.

The Minister of Public Works has given permission to a society of scientists and men interested in archaeological discovery to search for the great Goth's grave.

According to the terms of the Ministerial decree giving this permission, all coins, articles of precious metal and precious stones are to be delivered to the Government. Of all objects of art that may be found, two-thirds will go to the Government and one-third to the searchers.

This one-third will be all the reward they will receive for their labor and expenditure, but, should their expectations be realized, it will be ample.

The hiding place of Alaric and his treasure is beneath the River Busento, at its junction with the Crati. This is where the latest researches of the present investigators have placed it. It was always known that Alaric had been buried beneath the Busento, but the exact location was a mystery. The Busento is in Calabria, the extreme southern province of the Italian mainland. The work will begin at once.

The proposal to search for Alaric's grave originated with Professor Vegas, the German sculptor, and with Franz von Lenbach, the most famous artist in Germany. Vegas is considered the ideal artist by the Emperor William, who honors him with his personal friendship.

The sculptor was engaged in a study of ancient art in Rome when he came across a forgotten manuscript of the fifth century, by Jordanes, the Gothic historian, who wrote the work known as "De Rebus Gothicis."

The manuscript is the original. It gives a much more detailed and vivid account of the burial of Alaric and his treasure than the version of Jordanes' work which is familiar to scholars, and has been much changed from the original.

That Alaric was buried under the Busento is recorded in all the histories, but the river is long and no one knew exactly where to look. It is also stated that he was buried near the Roman city of Consentia. This name is preserved in the modern Italian city of Consenza, but it was improbable that this occupied the exact site of the ancient city, and there was no more precise information to be had.

These points have been made clear by the lately discovered manuscript of Jordanes. It is now known that the present city of Consenza is considerably removed from the ancient Con-

sentia. The modern city lies on the river Crati, a tributary of the Busento, and is two hours' walking distance from the Mediterranean. The Jordanes manuscript states that Consentia was washed by the Busento, and was three hours' walking distance from the Mediterranean. Consentia lay in a hollow. Consenza is 900 feet above the sea level.

Near the junction of the Busento and the Crati great masses of Roman masonry have recently been unearthed. They were covered in some places by two hundred feet of earth. They mark the site of ancient Consentia, and near them in the river must be the burial place of Alaric.

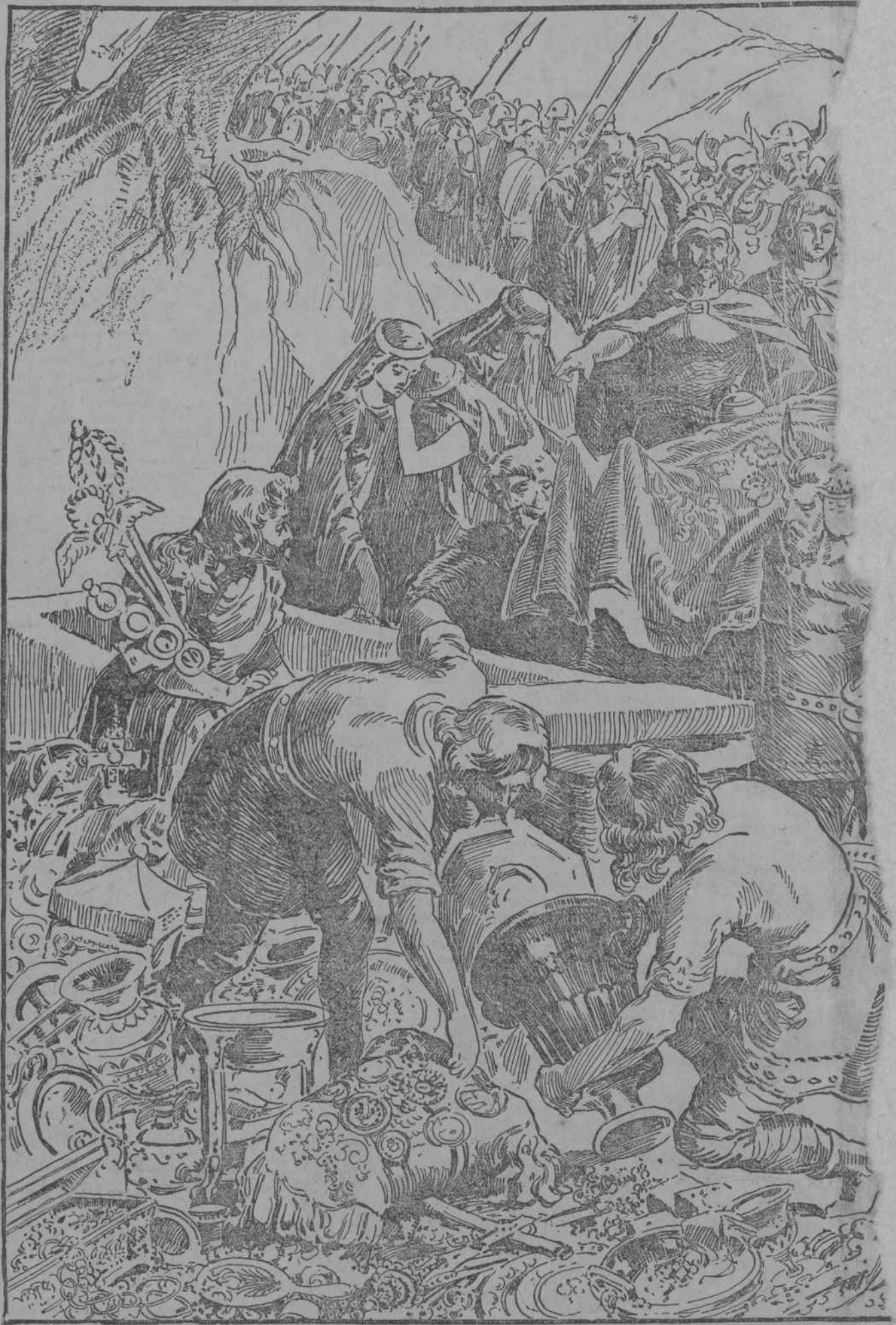
Signor Sicci, a famous archaeologist, who lives in the modern city of Consenza, says that he has been on the track of Alaric's grave for years and that his discoveries coincide with the statements in the Jordanes manuscript.

Jordanes, who was himself a Goth, though a Christian and a Roman bishop, says: "The army and the people of the great king spent many days and nights after his death at Consentia in earnest deliberation. He was to have a truly royal burial, his mausoleum was to be worthy of his great fame, and at the same time it was to be the most wonderful ever conceived."

"But who would guard the grave when the Goths had departed for the new country of their hopes, Africa? Italy, from which they were soon to depart, would come once more under the sway of the treacherous Roman emperor, Honorius. He would ravage the grave, desecrate the remains of the great captain and thus imperil Alaric's future life."

Jordanes then goes into minute and interminable details concerning the funeral ceremonies of Alaric. The Goths diverted the river Busentians, now the Busento, from its course by building a mighty dam. In the empty river bed they dug a great hole until they reached the rock that underlies all the country. Here they built a stone tomb, in which they laid the body of Alaric.

The dead king was clad in complete armor. Inlaid with gold and jewels. A golden crown surmounted his helmet. The tomb was filled with splendid weapons and insignia of rank, in order that the king might make his entry into the next world as became his rank. His favorite war horse was killed and left upon the tomb.



THE BURIAL OF KING ALARIC--The river was of Rome heaped about the dead king's body killed to keep the burial place secret. The r

BY DR. CONR
of the Palestine E

ONE of the chief points to ascertain here is whether it actually stands claimed the apparent rock found doubts on this point I have made a specl in a closed recess, I found that genuine the Greek archimandrite, or abbot, tellin mission to visit the various parts of the his charge.

His inner room, or sanctuary, was op costly museum of relics, but the walls w rock. The archimandrite could not tell m had not paid attention to this point wh years ago.

Nor could I see the blocked up door w besides the one on the Roman Catholic I went up to Calvary and to the refectory, of the church. I there examined the east place of the Cross and the refectory is ve there I could see no rock.

Coming down from the refectory half more than six feet high, covered with s lintels, between which are also one or two flooring of the refectory and the passage b

If one goes from Calvary up to the r circular steps, passing the low and comp just mentioned, he may see at its end a makes a turn toward the east all those and go up to the refectory.

This passage was now opened for me, pool of water. A board enabled me to w at my left hand the natural rock and a h twelve feet. It ends at the mouth of a lit and not masonry, which I could plainly se depth of the cistern from the bottom of th It had nearly ten feet of water in it. The refectory overhead.

There is another cistern east of this on the same line and level, and also cut into goes in the same height and line eastwa property, where it is found very nearly a that the rock goes clear through the whole

Originally the place with the hole in round about so that pilgrims could walk the thin wall was put in and the refectory

By following up these investigations eap and make a map of the configurati at the actual time of the crucifixion.

and carrying away the population as slaves.

They were soon encamped before the walls of Athens. The Athenians, who were addicted to commerce and literature rather than to war, did not fight. They offered an enormous ransom and invited the Goths to a banquet. Alaric accepted the money and the banquet. Then he plundered Corinth, Argos, Sparta, Megara and other cities of Greece.

Aradinga, the Emperor of the East, bought off Alaric by making him Governor of Eastern Illyricum, which meant nearly all the European portion of the Eastern Empire. He used this command chiefly to obtain arms and armor for his own men and to teach them Roman military science.

In the year 400 he entered Italy while Stilicho, the Vandal, the great general of the Roman Emperor Honorius, was in Gaul. He ravaged undisturbed until Stilicho returned suddenly and defeated him. The wife of Alaric was taken prisoner. Claudian in a fine poem tells how she was preparing to decorate herself with the spoils of the Roman matrons when this unpleasant event occurred.

Alaric retired from Italy for some years. He returned in tremendous force. Treacherous treatment of Gothic soldiers in the pay of the Roman Emperor gave him a pretext.

Alaric first besieged Rome in 408 A. D. The Emperor Honorius, who was a fool and a coward, fled to Ravenna. He ordered the Romans not to surrender. Alaric proceeded to starve them.

The Romans sent messengers to Alaric to point out that they were many thousands more than the Goths.

"The thicker the hay," he cried, "the more easily it is mown."

He then dictated his terms: "All your gold, all your silver, the best of the movables within your walls, all your slaves of foreign birth."

"What, then, will you leave us?" asked the dismayed ambassadors.

"Your lives," was the stern reply.

A second embassy was at once sent to beg for milder terms. Alaric at last consented to receive 5,000 pounds of gold, 30,000 pounds of silver, 4,000 silken robes, 3,000 pieces of scarlet cloth, and 3,000 pounds of pepper. The people stripped the roofs of the temples and melted down the statues of the gods and emperors to obtain the gold and silver that was wanted, and at last Alaric drew off his men. His army had been swelled by the accession of nearly forty thousand liberated slaves, and he now commanded over one hundred thousand warriors.

It may seem strange that with so great an army he did not at once make himself master of Italy. But his arm was still stayed by lingering reverence for the majesty of Rome. His ambition was not to be her enemy, but, like Stilicho, to be a great

THE SACKING OF ROME FROM THE PAINTING BY VOGEL

Upon it was piled in magnificent disorder the priceless plunder of the most luxurious and artistic civilization the world has ever known. Golden crowns, sceptres, necklets, cuirasses, shields, vases, amphorae and paterae were heaped on the great Goth's tomb. His people were regardless of gold when they wished to do honor to their king. They poured thousands and thousands of Roman and Greek golden coins upon the tomb. It was a rain of gold such as the world has probably never seen again.

When the work was done the Goths chained down to the river bed the 25,000 slaves who had done the digging and carrying. The dam was broken down and the river flowed back into its old bed, drowning the wretched slaves. This awful slaughter was committed by the Goths in order that no one should be left to betray the resting place of their king.

The Goths also killed all the inhabitants of the city of Consentia, who had, of course, been aware of the burial. Then they resumed their adventurous and wandering career, having constructed the most remarkable grave of which we have any record.

Alaric the Balthing, king of the Visigoths, who was thus laid to rest, is one of the most splendid and picturesque barbarians in history.

He was the first barbarian to capture Rome. He fell upon the masters of the world when they were weakened by corruption and inconceivable luxury.

The Goths were a Teutonic people of great bravery, with many savage virtues and comparatively democratic institutions. They originally came from Scandinavia, and wandered southward through Europe. Physically they were splendid men, huge limbed and deep chested, with blue eyes and yellow hair. In a rough and tumble fight one Goth could kill three Roman soldiers.

Before Alaric's time the Goths had been hammering at the frontiers of the Empire. The Visigoths or West Goths held lands in Thrace, under the Emperor.

Among the Visigoths there were two great families, the Balthings and the Amalings. Alaric was a Balthing. As a youth of twenty he had rendered valuable services to the Empire. He was cheated, as Rome cheated all her allies then. He raised a rebellion about the year 366 A. D.

At the head of the Visigoths he marched through Macedonia and Thessaly, and entered Greece through the famous pass of Thermopylae. The successor of Leonidas and his three hundred Spartans opposed Alaric. The guards of the pass died without striking a blow. Alaric and his army passed through Phocaea and Boeotia, burning villages

KING
ALARIC
THE
DESPOILER
OF ROME
BY A. DE NEUVILLE

